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Amendments to The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A method for ~~managing network configuration data,~~ the reconfiguration of a network in the event of a network failure wherein configuration data may have been lost, the network comprising a plurality of first type computers having a limited function range excluding at least a self-boot process and being bootable by a second type computer having a respective extended function range, said method comprising:
 - sending location information about the first type computer such that a respective second type computer may receive it;
 - responsive to said location information, booting said first type computer under the control of said second type computer;
 - periodically sending configuration information from said first type computer to said second type computer; and
 - in the event said second type computer fails such that configuration information of said network may have been lost, restarting said second type computer and collecting configuration information from the configuration information periodically sent from said first type computer to said second type computer, thereby enabling said network to be reconfigured.
2. (original): The method according to claim 1 in which said location information is included into boot messages usable between first type and second type computers according to a predetermined network communication protocol.

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3. The method according claim 2 wherein said configuration information periodically sent from said first type computer to said second type computer is in Infoboot messages and further comprising:

including current status information about the first type computer into said Infoboot messages having the same format as said boot messages; and

periodically sending current status information in said Infoboot messages after a successful boot of the first type computer.

4. (currently amended): The method according to claim 2 3 further comprising providing a flagging means in said boot message for distinguishing between said boot message and said Infoboot message.

5. (original): The method according to claim 1 wherein said location information is included into boot messages according to the BootP protocol.

6. (currently amended): A method for ~~managing network configuration data,~~ the reconfiguration of a network in the event of a network failure wherein configuration data may have been lost, the network comprising a plurality of first type computers having a limited function range excluding at least a self-boot process and being bootable by a second type computer having a respective extended function range, said method comprising:

collecting first-type-computer-related location and /or status information from a plurality of locations in the network by evaluating messages sent out by the first type computers; ~~and~~ storing said location and /or status information;

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periodically sending said first-type-computer-related information from said first type computers to said second type computer; and

in the event said second type computer fails such that said location and /or status information may have been lost, restarting said second type computer and collecting and storing said location and /or status information periodically sent from said first type computers to said second type computer after the failure of said second type computer, thereby enabling said network to be reconfigured.

7. (original): The method according to claim 6 wherein said second type computer is a server, and further comprising using the location information for determining the server's own network location.

8. (original): The method according to claim 7 further comprising collecting said information in a dedicated database.

9. (original): The method according to claim 8 further comprising setting up a network configuration description according to the stored information.

10. (original): The method according claim 9 further comprising, after a second-type-computer-related operation disruption, evaluating current status and /or location information associated with said first type computers before other messages.

11. (original): The method according to claim 6 further comprising consistently operating second type server computers serving first type embedded controller computers in an enterprise network.

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12. (original): The method according to claim 6 further comprising operating second type server computers serving first type embedded controller computers in a computer-controlled industry plant.

13. (currently amended): An apparatus ~~method for managing~~
~~network configuration data for the reconfiguration of a network~~
~~in the event of a network failure wherein configuration data may~~
~~have been lost~~, said apparatus comprising:

a plurality of first type computers having a limited function range excluding at least a self-boot process;

a second type computer having a respective extended function range, said first type computers being bootable by said second type computer; and

a transmitter sending location information about the first type computer such that a respective second type computer may receive it;

a booting protocol responsive to said location information for booting said first type computer under the control of said second type computer;

said transmitter periodically sending configuration information from said first type computer to said second type computer; and

a restarting facility for restarting said second type computer in the event said second type computer fails such that configuration information of said network may have been lost, said restarting mechanism for restarting said second type computer and collecting configuration information from the configuration information periodically sent from said first type computer to said second type computer, thereby enabling said network to be reconfigured.

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14. (original): The apparatus according to claim 13 in which said location information is included into boot messages usable between first type and second type computers according to a predetermined network communication protocol.

15. (currently amended): The apparatus according claim 14 wherein said configuration information periodically sent from said first type computer to said second type computer is in Infoboot messages and further comprising:

a facility including current status information about the first type computer into said Infoboot messages having the same format as said boot messages; and

a facility periodically sending current status information in said Infoboot messages after a successful boot of the first type computer.

16. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim ~~14~~ 15 further comprising a flag in said boot message for distinguishing between said boot message and said Infoboot message.

17. (original): The apparatus according to claim 13 wherein said location information is included into boot messages according to the BootP protocol.

18. (currently amended): An apparatus for ~~managing network configuration data,~~ the reconfiguration of a network in the event of a network failure wherein configuration data may have been lost, the network comprising a plurality of first type computers having a limited function range excluding at least a self-boot process and being bootable by a second type computer having a respective extended function range, said apparatus comprising:

An evaluator collecting first-type-computer-related location and /or status information from a plurality of locations in the

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network by evaluating messages sent out by the first type computers; and

a memory storing said location and /or status information;
a transmitter in said first type computers periodically sending said first-type-computer-related information from said first type computers to said second type computer; and
a restart facility in said second type computer for restarting said second type computer in the event of a failure such that said location and /or status information may have been lost, said restart facility collecting and storing said location and /or status information periodically sent from said first type computers to said second type computer after the failure of said second type computer, thereby enabling said network to be reconfigured.

19. (original): The apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said second type computer is a server, and further comprising using the location information for determining the server's own network location.

20. (original): The apparatus according to claim 19 further comprising said evaluator collecting said information in a dedicated database.

21. (original): The apparatus according to claim 20 further comprising setting up a network configuration description according to the stored information.

22. (original): The apparatus according claim 21 further comprising, after a second-type-computer-related operation disruption, evaluating current status and /or location information associated with said first type computers before other messages.

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23. (original): The apparatus according to claim 18 further comprising consistently operating second type server computers serving first type embedded controller computers in an enterprise network.

24. (original): The apparatus according to claim 18 further comprising operating second type server computers serving first type embedded controller computers in a computer-controlled industry plant.

25. (currently amended): A program product for ~~managing network configuration data, the reconfiguration of a network in the event of a network failure wherein configuration data may have been lost,~~ the network comprising a plurality of first type computers having a limited function range excluding at least a self-boot process and being bootable by a second type computer having a respective extended function range, said program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having recorded thereon computer readable program code means for performing the method comprising:

sending location information about the first type computer such that a respective second type computer may receive it;

responsive to said location information, booting said first type computer under the control of said second type computer;

periodically sending configuration information from said first type computer to said second type computer; and

in the event said second type computer fails such that configuration information of said network may have been lost, restarting said second type computer and collecting configuration information from the configuration information periodically sent from said first type computer to said second type computer, thereby enabling said network to be reconfigured.

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26. (original): The program product according to claim 25 in which said location information is included into boot messages usable between first type and second type computers according to a predetermined network communication protocol.

27. (currently amended): The program product according claim 25 wherein said configuration information periodically sent from said first type computer to said second type computer is in Infoboot messages and said method further comprises:

including current status information about the first type computer into said Infoboot messages having the same format as said boot messages; and

periodically sending current status information in said Infoboot messages after a successful boot of the first type computer.

28. (currently amended): The program product according to claim ~~26~~ 27 wherein said method further comprises providing a flagging means in said boot message for distinguishing between said boot message and said Infoboot message.

29. (original): The program product according to claim 25 wherein said location information is included into boot messages according to the BootP protocol.

30. (currently amended): A program product for ~~managing network configuration data,~~ the reconfiguration of a network in the event of a network failure wherein configuration data may have been lost, the network comprising a plurality of first type computers having a limited function range excluding at least a self-boot process and being bootable by a second type computer having a

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respective extended function range, said program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having recorded thereon computer readable program code means for performing the method comprising:

collecting first-type-computer-related location and /or status information from a plurality of locations in the network by evaluating messages sent out by the first type computers; ~~and~~ storing said location and /or status information; periodically sending said first-type-computer-related information from said first type computers to said second type computer; and

in the event said second type computer fails such that said location and /or status information may have been lost, restarting said second type computer and collecting and storing said location and /or status information periodically sent from said first type computers to said second type computer after the failure of said second type computer, thereby enabling said network to be reconfigured.

31. (original): The program product according to claim 30 wherein said second type computer is a server, and said method further comprises using the location information for determining the server's own network location.

32. (original): The program product according to claim 31 wherein said method further comprises collecting said information in a dedicated database.

33. (original): The program product according to claim 32 wherein said method further comprises setting up a network configuration description according to the stored information.

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34. (original): The program product according claim 33 wherein said method further comprises, after a second-type-computer-related operation disruption, evaluating current status and /or location information associated with said first type computers before other messages.

35. (original): The program product according to claim 25 wherein said method further comprises consistently operating second type server computers serving first type embedded controller computers in an enterprise network.

36. (original): The program product according to claim 25 wherein said method further comprises operating second type server computers serving first type embedded controller computers in a computer-controlled industry plant.